

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A file management apparatus for microscopes comprising:

an image data acquiring section for acquiring microscope image data to be stored as a file;

a structure information setting section enabling a user to arbitrarily set beforehand structure information that defines structure of a file name by showing a file name setting screen on a display, the file name being given to the microscope image data acquired by the image data acquiring section when the microscope image data is stored in a memory;

a name-generating section for acquiring, for each said microscope image data acquired by said image data acquiring section, information relating to said microscope image data, according to the structure information that is set by the structure information setting section, to automatically generate said file name using the acquired information; and

a managing section for storing the microscope image data acquired by the image data acquiring section, and for managing the stored microscope image data using the file names generated by the name-generating section,

said structure information setting section shows the file name setting screen on the display in response to the user's instruction before shooting, and sets said structure information according to the user's input.

2. (Previously Presented) The file management apparatus for microscopes according to claim 1, wherein:

the image data acquiring section acquires stored microscope image data to which a file name is given in advance and associated information that is associated with the stored microscope image data; and

the name-generating section acquires, for each said microscope image data acquired by said image data acquiring section, information relating to said microscope image data, from said associated information according to the structure information that is set by the structure information setting section, to generate a new file name using the acquired information.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The file management apparatus for microscopes according to claim 1, further comprising:

a classifying condition setting section capable of setting arbitrarily a classifying condition to be used for classifying the microscope image data stored in the managing section into a plurality of groups; and

a classifying section for acquiring information corresponding to said classifying condition from the file names of the microscope image data stored in said managing section, to classify microscope image data having the same said information acquired corresponding to said classifying condition into a same group, wherein

said managing section manages, microscope image data stored therein in advance, in two ways, which are managing by the file names generated by the name-generating section and managing by a result of classifying by the classifying section.

5. (Previously Presented) The file management apparatus for microscopes according to claim 1, further comprising:

a thumbnail display section for displaying a thumbnail image that is a reduced image of an image corresponding to the microscope image data stored in said managing section; and

a displaying condition setting section for setting, as a displaying condition to be used for selecting the thumbnail image to be displayed by the thumbnail display section, information that is included in the file name corresponding to the thumbnail image to be displayed, wherein

said thumbnail display section selects the file name including the information that is set as the displaying condition by the displaying condition setting section, from file names of the microscope image data stored in said managing section, and displays the thumbnail image corresponding to the selected file name.

6. (Previously Presented) A file management apparatus for microscopes comprising:

an image data acquiring section for acquiring stored microscope image data to which a file name is given in advance;

a structure information setting section enabling a user to arbitrarily set beforehand structure information that defines a structure of a virtual file name by showing a file name setting screen on a display, the virtual file name being given to the microscope image data acquired by the image data acquiring section when the microscope image data is stored in a memory;

a name-generating section for acquiring, for each said microscope image data acquired by said image data acquiring section, information relating to said microscope image data, according to the structure information that is set by the structure information setting section, to automatically generate said virtual file name using the acquired information; and

a managing section for storing said microscope image data acquired by said image data acquiring section and for managing the stored microscope image data using the virtual file name generated by the name-generating section,

said structure information setting section shows the file name setting screen on the display in response to the user's instruction before shooting, and sets said structure information according to the user's input.

7. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium storing a file management program to control a computer, said program comprising the steps of:

acquiring microscope image data to be stored as a file;

enabling a user to arbitrarily set beforehand structure information that defines structure of a file name by showing a file name setting screen on a display, the file name being given to the microscope image data acquired by the image data acquiring step when the microscope image data is stored in a memory;

acquiring, for each said microscope image data acquired by said image data acquiring step, information relating to said microscope image data, according to the structure information that is set by the structure information setting step, to automatically generate said file name using the acquired information; and

storing the microscope image data acquired by the image data acquiring step, and managing the stored microscope image data using the file name generated by the name-generating step,

said structure information setting step shows the file name setting screen on the display in response to the user's instruction before shooting, and sets said structure information according to the user's input.

8. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 7, wherein:

said image data acquiring step acquires stored microscope image data to which a file name is given in advance and associated information that is associated with the stored microscope image data; and

said name-generating step acquires, for each said microscope image data acquired by said image data acquiring step, information relating to said microscope image data, from said associated information according to the structure information that is set by the structure information setting step, to generate a new file name using the acquired information.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 7, further comprising:

a classifying condition setting step capable of setting arbitrarily a classifying condition to be used for classifying the microscope image data stored by the managing step into a plurality of groups; and

a classifying step of acquiring information corresponding to said classifying condition from the file names of the microscope image data stored by said managing step, to classify microscope image data having the same information acquired corresponding to said classifying condition into a same group, wherein

said managing step manages microscope image data stored thereby in advance, in two ways, which are managing by the file names generated by the name-generating step and managing by a result of classifying by the classifying step.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 7, further comprising:

a thumbnail display step for displaying a thumbnail image that is a reduced image of an image corresponding to the microscope image data stored by said managing step; and

a displaying condition setting step for setting, as a displaying condition to be used for selecting the thumbnail image to be displayed by the thumbnail display step, information that is included in the file name corresponding to the thumbnail image to be displayed, wherein

said thumbnail display step selects the file name including the information that is set as the displaying condition by the displaying condition setting step, from file names of the microscope image data stored by said managing step, and displays the thumbnail image corresponding to the selected file name.

12. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium storing a file management program to control a computer, said program comprising:

acquiring stored microscope image data to which a file name is given in advance;

enabling a user to arbitrarily set beforehand structure information that defines structure of a virtual file name by showing a file name setting screen on a display, the virtual file name being given to the microscope image data acquired by the image data acquiring step when the microscope image data is stored in a memory;

acquiring, for each said microscope image data acquired by said image data acquiring step, information relating to said microscope image data, according to the structure information that is set by the structure information setting step, to automatically generate said virtual file name using the acquired information; and

storing said microscope image data acquired by said image data acquiring step and managing the stored microscope image data using the virtual file name generated by the name-generating step,

said structure information setting step shows the file name setting screen on the display in response to the user's instruction before shooting, and sets said structure information according to the user's input.

13. (Previously Presented) The file management apparatus for microscopes according to claim 1, wherein the name-generating section gives, to each said microscope image data acquired, the file name generated according to set structure information, until the structure information is reset by the structure information setting section.

14. (Previously Presented) The file management apparatus for microscopes according to claim 6, wherein the name-generating section gives, to each said microscope image data acquired, the file name generated according to set structure information, until the structure information is reset by the structure information setting section.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 7, wherein the name-generating step gives, to each said microscope image data acquired, the file name generated according to set structure information, until the structure information is reset by the structure information setting step.